

Master Gardener Newsletter

New Mexico State University
Cooperative Extension Service
US Department of Agriculture
College of Agriculture & Home Economics

Dona Ana County Office
530 North Church Street
Las Cruces, NM 88001

Phone: (505) 525-6649 Fax: (505) 525-6652

Luna County Master Gardener Passes Away

Volume 9 Issue 11
November 2008

Long-time Luna County resident, James "Jim" Brady, aged 73, passed away at his home Saturday September 13, 2008. His wife, Mary Kay, survives him.

Jim and Mary Kay have been Master Gardeners since 2000 when John White awarded them their certifications. In 2007, the Deming Chamber of Commerce named the Brady's "Citizens of the Year".



Jim and Mary Kay Brady receive Master Gardener recertification from John White. White

For many years, Jim and Mary Kay have served as an invaluable resource for Luna County residents by making free house calls for people seeking plant/tree identifications, providing recommendations and assisting with issues related plant/tree diseases and garden pests. They taught an annual educational class, entitled Desert Gar-

dening Basics, at the Mimbres Valley Learning Center. They also led several programs offered at Rock Hound State Park, such as an annual hummingbird festival and native plant sale.

Married for over 36 years, the Brady's met when Mary Kay was a single mother seeking a loan and Jim turned her down. Their lives changed dramatically when they got married, left the banking business in Colorado and moved to a virtually empty desert property 15 miles south of Deming. They quickly developed a huge,

Continued on p.3

Inside this issue:

Master Gardener Matters	p. 2
Fundraising Efforts	p. 2
Birthdays & Meetings	p. 3
Master Gardener Profile	p. 4
Dixie's Honey Do's	p. 5

Coffee Grounds Can Give Your Garden a Pick-Me-Up, too

What is organic, smells nice, is nutritious and low cost? And, it's good for your garden? It's coffee grounds and they provide many benefits, including the following:

1. Shade the soil and add nitrogen
2. Improve soil texture and gently feed it
3. Worms love it, ants and snails hate it.
4. Help heat up dormant compost piles.

Just scatter ground coffees from the bag/can onto existing mulch, no deeper than 1/2 inch at a time. The coarse grounds improve soil texture, help loosen clay and nourish worm populations. During the hottest months of the year, coffee grounds

gently feed the soil instead of instantly feeding plants which is what plants in a survival mode need during the hottest times of the year.

To give your grass a boost, just fling ground coffee dregs around your lawn. For large areas of grass, combine used grounds with granulated organic lawn fertilizer in a drop spreader.

Used coffee grounds can also help to heat up a dormant compost pile by increasing the oxygen in the pile when you turn it over. Grounds add "green" nitrogen to the "brown" carbon materials, which will speed up decomposition. "Just

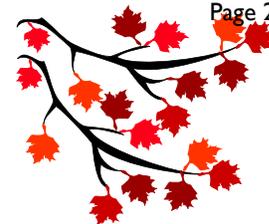


as roses have thorns, coffee plants have alkaloids to protect them from predators." Coffee grounds can help to fend off mealybugs, scales and aphids, as well as slugs and snails. Also, the grounds repel ants.

Coffee grounds provide a nice smell in your garden and many other benefits. They are a cheap, organic way to keep your plants healthy.

Excerpt from "Mix a Home Brew", by Maggie Ross McNeely. She can be reached at www.maggiesgarden.com

Master Gardener Matters



If you haven't already done so, please turn in your hours ASAP. If you find yourself low on hours, the hotline has several openings through the rest of the year. Hours for the hotline in December, January and February are 9 am – 12:00 pm. If each of us could sign up to work one day we'd have it covered. There is also an opening for the Farmer's Market booth on November 8 from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm. If you're interested in signing up for the hotline, please email or call Barbara Arispe, 525-6649 or barispe@nmsu.edu. If you want to work at the Farmer's Market, please email Barb Sallach, bsallach@nmsu.edu. The sign up sheet for the Dec. 13 Farmer's Market will be available at the November meeting.

Volunteers are also needed to help Nov. 8 & 9 with the Mariachi in the Parque making balloon gardens for children. If you can help, please contact Barbara Arispe.

Carol Koenig has done an excellent job with the newsletter for several years but has decided that she needs to give it up. Bonnie Eisenberg has volunteered to put November's newsletter together and Mary Vee Cammack and Ann Shine-Ring are also getting into the act. Dixie's Honey Do's will continue to make an appearance, Ann Palormo will continue to do the new member profiles, and Frank has been helping with the hotline dates. If anyone else would like to help with the newsletter, perhaps writing a monthly review of garden books

or some other type of column, please contact Bonnie, mizbons@comcast.net.

Doug Brown has been our liaison with various school gardens and the Healthy Kids, Health Las Cruces program and but he also needs to allocate his time elsewhere and is actively looking for someone to take over as liaison/coordinator. If you have any interest in either of these two programs, please contact Doug at drphysic@juno.com.

Jan Brydon and Sam Resch are continuing to work on our web page. They plan on having a projects page so keep those pictures available for the future.

Joan Lane is our new budget/finance committee chair and will also keep us informed of CoCoRAHS doings. If you have any suggestions for the committee please contact her, mexlane@msn.com.

Our Garden Expo was a resounding success. Dee and her committee did an excellent job of organizing and the volunteers all had a good time too. We had 120 attendees in the classes and evaluations were high. e'll be talking further about repeating our success in March.

Larry Dickson coordinated our volunteers at the State Fair and he says it went off without a hitch. He's also looking for a replacement so if you're interested please contact him, larrydarlene@zianet.com.

Continued p.3

Colette Wins Quilt Raffle – Fundraising Efforts a Big Success

Raffle tickets have been sold at the past two Master Gardener meetings for chances to win the beautiful quilt made and donated by Barbara Arispe. Proceeds from the raffle will go to the Myles Munoz fund to help our fellow Master Gardener friend with medical and other bills.

The winning

ticket was drawn at the October meeting. In addition to the quilt raffle, a garage sale was held at Colette's house on Oct 18. Close to \$1,000. was raised at the sale. Many thanks to all Master Gardeners and friends who contributed items for the sale, helped out on that day, and/or purchased items.



Barbara Arispe, maker of the quilt with Colette Bullock, winner of the raffle.

Master Gardener Matters *from p. 2*

Colette Bullock organized a fundraiser garage sale for Myles Munoz that garnered over \$1000. Thanks to everyone who contributed their time, energy, and donations. Barbara Arispe made a quilt that we raffled off to benefit Myles and raised another \$420. I know Myles really appreciates our efforts.

Our graduation/award reception will be December 13, so mark your calendars. If you're interested in serving on the planning committee, please contact Juliet Williams, jwx2@earthlink.net.

There is another First Detector Training being offered on November 10. Please contact Jeanine Castillo, rjeanine@nmsu.edu, if you are interested in attending this free workshop.

for sale at the Chile Pepper Institute MWF from 8 am – noon and 1 – 5 pm and on TTH 8 am – 5 pm. Call 646-3028 for more information.

Our speaker at the October meeting was Alex Mares from the Mesilla Bosque State Park. Their official grand opening will be Dec. 13. If you are interested in volunteering at the park, please contact him at alex.mares@state.nm.us or 523-4398. The Park is on approximately 900 acres of which the state park actually owns only 13 acres. Game and Fish, the International Boundary Waters Commission, BLM, Harris Farms, EBID, and the Bureau of Reclamation own or jointly administer the rest. Makes our committee meetings look pretty easy by comparison.

Our next meeting will be November 19. Hope to see you there.

Barb and Juliet

Jim Brady *continued from p.1*

lush "teaching garden" estimated to contain 180-190 varieties of roses as well as a flourishing vegetable garden. The garden is wheelchair and walker accessible. The Brady's have worked with the Deming hospice and home health groups to provide tours in the garden.

Mary Kay states that Jim was her best friend and that they worked together in all their com-

munity activities. She states that Jim loved his home and garden, and called it his "oasis in the desert". He often said that he could not imagine doing any other work than what they did as "stewards of nature". Everyone will certainly miss Jim and we thank him and Mary Kay for their many contributions to master gardening and to the community.

Excerpted from the Deming Headlight



Master Gardener Meeting Nov 19, 2008

Many thanks to Pat Anderson, Janie Elliott and Juliet Williams for bringing wonderful goodies to the Oct meeting:



November Birthdays

11/8 Pat Jonker
11/9 Lauren Bishop
11/12 Valice Raffi
11/18 Colette Bullock
11/21 Bonnie Eisenberg
11/23 Janie Elliot

Staffing for Farmers Market Table Nov. 8

Mary Thompson -table pick up and 7:45 – 10:30 am shift. Ann Palormo 7:45 – 8:30 am and Jan Brydon 8:30 – 10:30. From 10:30 – 12:30 pm, Mary Vee Cammack is working by herself so if anyone wants to help out, that would be good. Barb will also do that shift and then take the stuff back to the office. More fun than the hot line, so sign up now!

Master Gardener Graduation Party Dec 13

Graduation and recertification ceremonies will take place at the party along with a large-scale pot-luck lunch. Meat (probably turkey and brisket) and a cake will be provided, everyone else is asked to bring a salad or side dish to share. Location is not yet set, so stay tuned for more information.

Master Gardener Profile: Suzi Jones

By Ann Palormo

Suzi Jones took the Master Gardener class in 2007. She enrolled at the suggestion of a friend in her former home, Birmingham, AL. That friend had recently completed the Master Gardener program there and thought the course could help Suzi modify her gardening techniques to match our desert climate.

“When I was in Alabama, I grew gorgeous azaleas and hydrangeas in my yard. I came to Las Cruces prepared to continue growing these colorful showy shrubs,” Suzi says. “I live in the Country Club area and although I have plenty of space, I am more successful with container gardening.”

Suzi has been gardening for 30 years, most recently in Birmingham, AL. It all started with a ‘friendship plant’ given to her by



“When I was in Alabama, I grew gorgeous azaleas and hydrangeas in my yard. I came to Las Cruces prepared to continue growing these colorful showy shrubs,” Suzi says.

a friend.

“When my Mom was living, she enjoyed growing and caring for houseplants as well as gardening in her flower beds and vegetable garden.” Suzi said. “She took cuttings from one of her favorite plants, and presented me with my very own Thanksgiving cactus which she had potted for me. Some years later I lost my Mom but I still have my Thanksgiving cactus. Caring for that plant revives precious memories of my Mom. I bring it into bloom each year and I so thankful for the positive influence my Mom’s love and knowledge of gardening had on me. Because of it I have a living link with her.”

Suzi encourages the idea of sharing cuttings from favorite flowers or plants along with one’s gardening expertise with friends. This combination creates a special bond between the giver and receiver.

Suzi enjoys growing her own herbs. “Basil, especially, seems

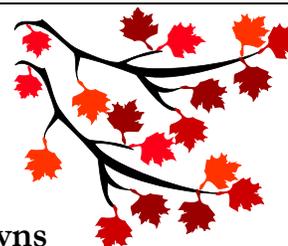
to thrive in the bright sun and hot temperatures in the warmest months,” she says. “I also grow tomatoes. Caprese salad never tasted so good.”

A registered nurse by profession, Suzi spent many years in the emergency room of a Birmingham hospital. This year she has added a new dimension to her career working as a nursing instructor at New Mexico State University.

Suzi and her husband enjoy traveling. In recent years they have traveled to France and Australia and visited Italy three times. Suzi derives much pleasure from cooking, especially Italian Cuisine, and spends a great deal of time in the kitchen.

“My daughter graduated from Jacksonville State University in Alabama and is an advocate for the disabled. My son graduated this past December with a Master’s in Divinity and pastors students at the University of Alabama. Both live in the Birming-

Dixie's Honey Do's-



Help! I have exhausted my resources for the garden tips articles. I know all of you have gardening interests that I have failed to cover. For example, my experience with native plants, vegetables, and herbs is limited to name a few. We need more practical information. If you can help, let me know. If not, it's "Encore January, February, March ... Garden Tips." Thanks, Dixie, 525-1042.

Ornamentals

- Finish planting spring flowering bulbs. If you plant tulips, give them a northern exposure and light shade, if possible.
- Fertilize bulbs and cool season annuals lightly with a 1-2-1 ratio fertilizer.
- Continue planting winter hardy shrubs, flowers, and wildflower seeds.
- Protect tender plants from freezing temperatures with frost cloth, blankets, boxes, or other light weight materials.
- After the first killing freeze, cut back stems of cannas and dahlias to the ground and discard the leaves (MI).
- Continue to plant cool season succulents such as aloe, gasteria, and dudleya (MI).

- Water cool season succulents every 2 to 3 weeks while temperatures are cool; water warm season succulents every 5 to 6 weeks (MI).

Fruit, Nut and Shade Trees

- Plan pruning activities. Flag limbs for major winter pruning, but prune dead, diseased, or damaged limbs anytime.
- Wait until late winter to prune cold tender plants.
- Begin harvesting pecans as shucks split with freezing temperatures.
- Water established trees once a month after hard freezes begin. Water newly planted material weekly or as needed.
- If you didn't apply dormant oil late last month, then do so now to control insects that overwinter in crevices of bark.

Vegetables and Herbs

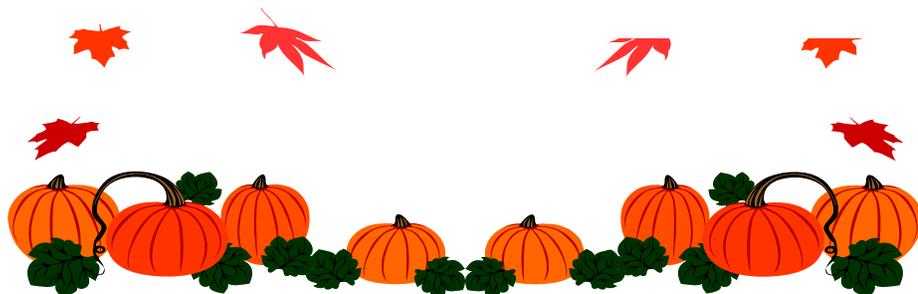
- Plant head lettuce after mid month.
- Continue planting garlic.
- It's time to plant rhubarb.
- Finish pruning Mediterranean herbs.

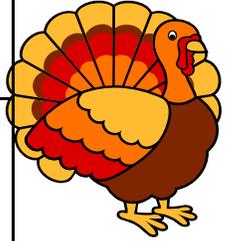
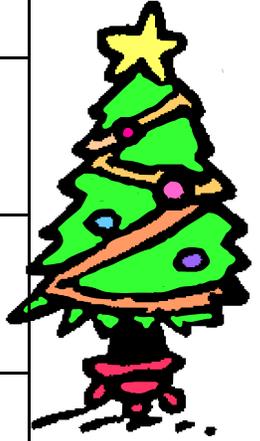
Lawns

- Warm season grasses are going dormant. Do not fertilize and reduce irrigation frequency to once or twice a month after first hard freeze. When irrigating, water deeply (to a depth of 6-8 inches).
- Wait until spring to 'scalp' warm season grasses. After this task, tune up lawn mower.
- Continue fall management schedule for cool season turf. Fertilize at a rate of $\frac{3}{4}$ lb N/1000 ft². Water regularly to a depth of 6 – 8 inches and raise mower height to provide extra frost protection for crown.

Miscellaneous

- Renew mulch especially around tender plants.
- Mow up fallen leaves and incorporate them into compost pile.
- Clean and store garden tools using steel wool on shovels, hoes, and spading forks, then oil lightly to prevent rust. Use linseed oil on wooden handles.
- Insulate hose bibs.
- Drain unused hoses.
- Winterize drip irrigation systems. Install flush valves that keep water out of irrigation tubing when system is not in use.



Sat/Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
NOVEMBER					
2/3	3	4 Hotline Pamela Crane Janie Elliot	5	6 MG class	7 Hotline Ina Goldberg Alberta & Pat Anderson
8/9 Farmers' Market table	10	11 HOLIDAY Veterans Day	12	13 MG class	14 Hotline Anne Shine- Ring
15/16	17	18 Hotline Janie Elliot Mary Vee Cammack	19	20 MG class	21 Hotline Darrol Shillingburg George Rushing
22/23	24	25 Hotline Linda Frederickson	26	27 HOLIDAY Thanksgiving	28 HOLIDAY Thanksgiving
DECEMBER					
		2 Hotline Open	3	4 MG class	5 Hotline Alberta
6/7	8	9 Hotline Katrin Sumpter	10	11 MG class Final Exam	12 Anne Shine Ring
13/14 Graduation Party Sat 12/13	15	16 Hotline Open	17	18	19 Hotline Linda Frederickson
20/21 Winter Soltice 12/21	22	23 Hotline P. Crane	24	25 HOLIDAY Christmas	26 Hotline Open
27/28	29	30 - Hotline Open	31		
					 

Up Coming Events of Interest

There is another **First Detector Training** being offered on November 10. Please contact Jeanine Castillo, rjeanine@nmsu.edu, if you are interested in attending this free workshop.

A workshop in **Sustainable Agriculture IPM** (Integrated Pest Management) for New Mexico will be held December 9, 2008 at the Best Western Mission Inn. More information coming.